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PRESS RELEASE

United States Attorney Glenn T. Suddaby announced today that **RAYQUINSHAWN HARRISON**, a/k/a “Pilla,” age 22, and **SHAMEEK THOMAS**, a/k/a “Tarzan,” age 22, both of Albany, New York, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court, Albany, New York, before the Hon. Gary L. Sharpe, U.S. District Judge. **HARRISON** and **THOMAS** both pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy charges as set forth in Count 1 of a federal indictment relating to the criminal activities of the **Jungle Junkies gang**, which operated within the City of Albany. In addition to this charge, **HARRISON** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base (crack cocaine) (as charged in Count 2 of the indictment), and to an Information charging him with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. These defendants are the eighth and ninth defendants to plead guilty in this case.

In their plea agreements, **HARRISON** and **THOMAS** admitted that:

Beginning in or about 1999, and continuing thereafter up to October 12, 2006 (the date of the indictment), they were members of a criminal organization in Albany, New York, originally known as the LTT (Looney Tunes Thugs) and later known as the “Jungle Junkies.” **HARRISON**, **THOMAS** and other Jungle Junkies gang members and associates operated within and near the Arbor Hill section of the City of Albany, New York, and routinely engaged in criminal activities which included crack cocaine and marijuana trafficking, possession of firearms, and acts of assault, robbery, and attempted murder against rival gang members within the Northern District of New York. **HARRISON** and **THOMAS** both sold crack cocaine in furtherance of their gang related activities.

In his plea agreement, **HARRISON** specifically admitted the following additional facts: 1) on August 12, 2003, at 277 Second Street, Albany, New York, **HARRISON** and another Jungle Junkie gang member possessed with intent to distribute 16 pieces of cocaine base (crack cocaine); 2) on May 15, 2005, at 323 First Street, Albany, New York, **HARRISON** possessed with intent to distribute 1 bag of marijuana weighing approximately 38.2 grams; 3) on August 12, 2005, in the vicinity of 322 First Street, Albany, New York, **HARRISON** distributed 2 tie-off baggies of crack cocaine to another person; 4) on February 28, 2006, in the City of Albany, New York, **HARRISON** possessed a loaded Keltec Luger 9mm semi-automatic handgun and a plastic bag containing 38 individually wrapped baggies of marijuana; and 5) on September 6, 2006, at 67 First Street, Albany, New York, as Albany Police Officers approached **HARRISON**, he jumped over a stoop and simultaneously discarded a loaded magazine, and proceeded to run away. Recovered from the vicinity of the stoop was a loaded .380 magazine. After a short foot chase **HARRISON** was apprehended and found to be in possession of a Hi Point Model CF 380, .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun, Serial No. P780544, which was subsequently recovered from the ground close to where he was arrested. The above-mentioned .380 magazine “seated” properly into the above-mentioned Hi Point .380 handgun recovered from the vicinity of the defendant. In addition, approximately 14 individually wrapped packages (approximately 1.2 grams) of cocaine base (crack) were recovered from **HARRISON’S** shoe, together with \$1,600 in United States currency, which was also in **HARRISON’S** possession. Post-arrest, **HARRISON** admitted that he found the above-mentioned Hi Point .380 semi-automatic handgun about 5 days before on Colonie Street and decided to keep it. The above-mentioned Hi Point .380 semi-automatic handgun had been reported stolen on November 17, 2003 out of Darlington, South Carolina. In connection with this event, **HARRISON** further admitted that he planned to distribute the cocaine base (crack cocaine) that he possessed on

September 6, 2006, and that he possessed the above-mentioned firearm to further his possession with intent to distribute and distribution of cocaine base (crack) by protecting his drugs and drug proceeds from robbery.

At sentencing, which is scheduled for November 15, 2007, **HARRISON** faces a maximum of life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years, supervised release for life, and a fine of \$4,000,000. At his sentencing on November 20, 2007, **THOMAS** faces a maximum of life imprisonment, supervised release for up to 5 years, and a fine of \$250,000.

This prosecution resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York; the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Albany Field Division; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration, Albany District Office; the City of Albany Police Department; the Albany County Sheriff's Department; the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department; the New York State Department of Corrections; the New York State Division of Parole; and the New York State Police, with the assistance of the United States Marshal, Northern District of New York, Albany Office; the Albany County District Attorney's Office; the Rensselaer County District Attorney's Office; the Town of Guilderland Police Department; the Town of Bethlehem Police Department; and the City of Cohoes Police Department.

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